# Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission Minden, Louisiana

Annual Financial Report
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

...nder provisions of state law, this report is a public document. Acopy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 6/11/09

# Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission Minden, Louisiana

# Annual Financial Report As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

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# **Independent Auditors' Report**

**Board Members** Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission Minden, Louisiana

2441 Tower Drive

Monroe, LA 71201

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Commission as of December 31, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position and budgetary comparison schedule for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 5, 2009, on our consideration of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financing reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplemental information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplemental information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplemental information, as listed in the table of contents, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The accompanying other information, as listed in the table of contents, has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

allen, Green + Williamson, LLP

ALLEN, GREEN & WILLIAMSON, LLP

Monroe, Louisiana June 5, 2009 Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission

# REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

# MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (MD&A)

Our discussion and analysis of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's financial performance provides an overview of the Commission's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of the new reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments issued June 1999. Certain comparative information between the current year and the prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS Our financial statements provide these insights into the results of this year's operations:

The assets of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$336,481 (net assets). Of this amount, \$328,303 (unrestricted net assets) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

As of the close of the current fiscal year, the unrestricted net assets of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission were \$328,303 or 88% of total program expenses for the fiscal year.

The Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission revenue received from charges for services for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$430,661, this is an increase of \$22,901 from the revenue received from charges for services of \$407,760 in 2007. This was mainly due to an increase in sales tax collections. Although the collection fee was constant at 1.4%, sales tax collections increased \$208 thousand from 2007 to 2008.

The Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission total expenses for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$370,968, this is an increase of \$35,391 from the expenses of \$335,577 in 2007. This increase of expenses was mainly due to increases in salary, benefits and travel/education.

#### USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

The Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's annual report consists of a series of financial statements that show information for the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission as a whole, and its funds. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's finances. For our governmental activities, the fund financial statements tell how we financed our services in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund statements also may give you some insights into the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's overall financial health. Fund financial statements also report the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's operations in more detail than the governmental-wide financial statements by providing information about the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's General Fund.

The following chart reflects the information included in this annual report.

Finan	cial Se	etion
Required Supp  Management's Discu		
Basic Fina	ncial S	tatements
Government-wide Financial Statements	↔	Fund Financial Statements
Notes to the Basi	c Fina	ncial Statements
Suppleme Schedule of Change	ntal Ini s in De	ormation posits Due Others
Other Reports Required by	Gover	nment Auditing Standards

Our auditor has provided assurance in the independent auditor's report, located immediately preceding this Management's Discussion and Analysis, that the Basic Financial Statements are fairly stated. Varying degrees of assurance are being provided by the auditor regarding the Required Supplemental Information, the Supplemental Information, and Other Information identified above. A user of this report should read the independent auditor's report carefully to ascertain the level of assurance being provided for each of the other parts of this report.

#### Reporting the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission as a Whole

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities

Our analysis of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission as a whole begins with the government-wide financial statements. One of the most important questions asked about the Webster Parish Sales and Tax Commission's finances is, "Is the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission as a whole better off or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities, which appear first in the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's financial statements, report information about the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax as a whole and its activities in a way that helps answer this question. We prepare these statements to include all assets and liabilities, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's net assets - the difference between assets and liabilities, as reported in the Statement of Net Assets - as one way to measure the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's net assets as reported in the Statement of Activities are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. The relationship between revenues and expenses is the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's operating results. However, the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's goal is to increase sales tax collections and decrease operating expense.

In the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities, the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's activities are shown as:

Governmental Activities - All of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's basic services are reported here, including salaries and contract labor, employee benefits, professional fees, operations and maintenance, repairs and upkeep, and administrative expenses. Sales tax collection fee revenue finances these activities.

#### Reporting the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's Most Significant Funds

#### **Fund Financial Statements**

The Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission report all of its activity in one governmental fund which uses the following approach:

Governmental fund reporting focuses on showing how money flows into and out of funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. They are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's operations and the services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's programs. We describe the relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds in the reconciliations (Statements D and F).

#### THE WEBSTER PARISH SALES AND USE TAX COMMISSION AS A WHOLE

Our analysis below focuses on the net assets (Table 1) and changes in net assets (Table 2) of the Commission's governmental activities.

Table 1 Net Assets December 31, 2008

	2008	2007	Variance
Current and other assets	\$380,587	\$283,157	\$ 97,430
Capital assets, net of depreciation	8,178	9,928	(1,750)
Total assets	388,765	293,085	95,680
Current liabilities	31,430	7,643	23,787
Long-term liabilities	20,854	18,235	2,619
Total liabilities	52,284	25,878	26,406
Net assets			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	8,178	9,928	(1,750)
Unrestricted	328,303	257,279	71,024
Total net assets	<b>\$336,481</b>	\$267,207	\$ 69,274

Net assets of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission governmental activities for December 31, 2008 were \$336,481. Unrestricted net assets that are the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation, or other legal requirements was \$328,303.

Table 2
Changes in Net Assets
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008

	2008	2007	Variance
Expenses:			
Program expenses			
Office expense	\$ 55,600	\$ 53,065	\$ 2,535
Personnel services	278,600	245,784	32,816
Insurance expense	1,575	2,591	(1,016)
Legal expense	10,885	9,972	913
Travel expense	6,849	4,454	2,395
Utilities	4,231	4,387	(156)
Materials and supplies	•	•	•
Maintenance and repairs	4,974	3,365	1,609
NSF checks and bank charges	•	2,263	(2,263)
Depreciation	8,254	9,696	(1,442)
Total program expenses	\$ 370,968	335,577	35,391
Revenues:			
Program revenues			
Charges for services	430,661	407,760	_ 22,901
General revenues	<del></del>		<del></del>
Interest earned	6,336	9,358	(3,022)
Other revenue	3,245	626	_ 2,619
Total revenues	440,242	417,744	22,498
Increases (decrease) in net assets	69,274	82,167	(12,893)
Net assets, beginning	267,207	185,040	82,167
Net assets, ending	\$ 336,481	\$ 267,207	\$ 69,274

#### Governmental Activities

The cost of all governmental activities this year was \$370,968.

## THE WEBSTER PARISH SALES AND USE TAX COMMISSION'S FUNDS

As the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission completed the year, its governmental funds reported a fund balance of \$349,157.

# GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

Budgeted revenues exceeded actual revenues by \$2,629. This unfavorable variance was due to sales tax collection fees being less than expected because collections were less than expected.

Budgeted expenditures exceeded actual expenditures by \$76,272. This favorable variance was due to decreased office expense and personnel services.

#### CAPITAL ASSET

#### Capital Assets

At December 31, 2008, the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission had \$8,178 invested in capital assets, including equipment, and furniture and fixtures. This amount represents a net decrease (including additions, deductions, and depreciation) of \$1,750, or 18%, from last year.

#### Capital Assets at Year-end

	2008	2007	Variance
Equipment	\$ 81,792	\$ 81,779	\$ 13
Furniture and fixtures	15,258	13,658	1,600
Total	97,050	95,437	1,613
Less Accumulated Depreciation	88,872	85,509	3,363
Net Capital Assets	\$ 8,178	\$ 9,928	\$ (1,750)

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS Our elected and appointed officials and citizens consider many factors when setting the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission's budget and tax rates. One of the most important factors affecting the budget is sales tax collections. 100% of total revenues are collection fees charged to collect tax. We have budgeted little change in revenue and expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2009.

CONTACTING THE SALES AND USE TAX COMMISSION'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT Our financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the Sales and Use Tax Commission's finances and to show the Sales and Use Tax Commission's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or wish to request additional financial information, contact Ms. Cyndy Herrington, Administrator, P. O. Box 357, Minden, LA 71058-0357 or at (318) 377-8948.

Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission

# GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCAL STATEMENTS

# STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS December 31, 2008

Statement A

ASSETS		
Cash	\$	120,577
Investments		257,934
Other assets		2,076
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation		
Land, building and equipment		8.178
TOTAL ASSETS		388,765
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable		939
Deferred revenue		30,491
Long term liabilities:		
Payable within one year	<u> </u>	20,854
TOTAL LIABILITIES		52,284
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt		8,178
Unrestricted		328,303
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$	33 <u>6,481</u>

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Statement B

EXPENSES	
Office expense	\$ 55,600
Personnel services	278,600
Insurance expense	1,575
Legal expense	10,885
Travel expense	6,849
Utilities	4,231
Maintenance and repairs	4,974
Depreciation	8.254
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	370.968
PROGRAM REVENUES	
Charges for services	430,661
NET PROGRAM EXPENSE	59,693
GENERAL REVENUES	
Interest earned	6,336
Other revenue	3.245
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	9,581
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	69,274
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	267,207
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 336.481</u>

Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission

# **FUND FINANCAL STATEMENTS**

#### GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET December 31, 2008

Statement C

ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 120,577
Investments	257,934
Other assets	2.076
TOTAL ASSETS	380,587
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	939
Deferred revenue	30.491
TOTAL LIABILITIES	31.430
Fund balances:	
Unreserved and undesignated	349,157
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 380,587

#### Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Assets December 31, 2008

Statement D

Total fund balances - governmental funds	\$	349,157
The cost of capital assets (land, buildings, furniture and equipment and infrastructure) purchased or constructed is reported as an expenditure in governmental funds. The Statement of Net Assets includes those capital assets among the assets of the Commission as a whole. The cost of those capital assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives (as depreciation expense) to the various programs reported as governmental activities in the Statement of Activities. Because depreciation expense does not affect financial resources, it is not reported in governmental funds.	3	
Costs of capital assets 97,050		
Depreciation expense to date(88,872	<u>F</u>	
		8,178
Long-term liabilities applicable to the Sales and Use Tax Commission are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All liabilities - both current and long term - are reported in the Statement of Net Assets.		
Balances at December 31, 2008 are:		
Compensated absences payable		(20,854)
Net Assets	<u>\$</u>	336,481

# GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Statement E

REVENUES	
Local sources:	
Collection fees	\$ 430,661
Interest earned	6,336
Other revenue	3,245
TOTAL REVENUES	440,242
EXPENDITURES	
Current:	
Office expense	55,600
Personnel services	275,981
Insurance expense	1,575
Legal expense	10,885
Travel expense	6,849
Utilities	4,231
Maintenance and repairs	4,974
Capital outlay	6.504
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	366.599
Net Change in Fund Balances	73,643
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	275,514
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	<b>\$ 349,157</b>

# Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Statement F

Total net change in fund balances - governm	ental funds	\$ 73,643
Amounts reported for governmental activities	in the Statement of Activities are different because:	
Activities, the cost of those essets is allocat expense. This is the amount by which depresent the cost of those essets is allocated as a cost of the	funds as expenditures. However, in the Statement of ed over their estimated useful lives as depreciation eciation exceeds capital outlays in the period:	
Capital outlays  Depreciation	6 6,504 (8,254)	(1,750)
sick leave) - are measured by the amounts e however, expenditures for these items are m	g expenses-compensated absences (vacations and arned during the year. In the governmental funds, easured by the amount of financial resources used a year, vacation and sick time earned \$26,117,619.	 (2.619)
Change in net assets of governmental activity	ies.	\$ 69,274

#### GENERAL FUND Budgetary Comparison Schedule For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Statement G

		D		4071141	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET	
		BUDGETED AF	FINAL	ACTUAL AMOUNTS	POSITIVE (NEGATIVE)	
Resources (inflows)		NIGHAL		AMOUNTO	THEOMITTEE	
Local sources:						
Collection fees	\$	426,207 \$	442,871 \$	430,661 \$	(12,210)	
Interest earned	*	0	0	6.336	6,336	
Other revenue		0		3,245	3.245	
Amounts available for appropriations		426,207	442.871	440,242	(2.629)	
Charges to appropriations (outflows)						
General government:						
Office expense		94,800	77,199	55,600	21,599	
Personnel services		275,607	307,372	275,981	31,391	
Insurance expense		6,000	6,000	1,575	4,425	
Legal expense		14,500	14,500	10,885	3, <del>6</del> 15	
Travel expense		6,000	8,500	6,849	1,651	
Utilities		7,700	7,700	4,231	3,469	
Maintenance and repairs		8,000	8,000	4,974	3,026	
Capital outlay		13,600	13,600	6,504	7.096	
Total charges to appropriations		426,207	442,871	366,599	76.272	
BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING		<u> </u>	<u>o</u>	275,514	275,514	
BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE, ENDING	\$	0 \$	0 \$	349,157	349,157	

#### FIDUCIARY FUND STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES December 31, 2008

Statement H

	AGENCY FUND
ASSETS	
Sales tax receivable	\$ 3.539,717
Total assets	3,539,717
LIABILITIES	
Deposits due others	3,539,717
Total liabilities	\$3,539,717

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- NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES The accompanying financial statements of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission (Commission) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.
- A. REPORTING ENTITY The Commission was formed under joint agreement of the City of Minden, the City of Springhill, the Town of Cotton Valley, the Town of Cullen, the Town of Sarepta, the Town of Sibley, the Village of Dixie Inn, the Webster Parish School Board, and the Webster Parish Police Jury, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:2844, to provide centralized sales tax collection within Webster Parish. The Commission is comprised of nine members, one appointed by each taxing body. Each Commissioner will have one vote with the exception of those who represent taxing bodies having revenues in excess of one million dollars, which will have two votes. Commissioners serve without compensation.

GASB Statement 14 establishes criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and component units that should be included within the reporting entity. Under provisions of this Statement, the Commission is considered a primary government, since it is a special purpose government that has a separately appointed governing body, is legally separate, and is fiscally independent of other state or local governments. As used in GASB Statement 14, fiscally independent means that the Commission may, without the approval or consent of another governmental entity, determine or modify its own budget and set its own rates or charges. The Commission also has no component units, defined by GASB Statement 14 as other legally separate organizations for which the appointed Commission members are financially accountable. There are no other primary governments with which the Commission has a significant relationship.

**B.** FUNDS The accounts of the Commission are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

Funds of the Commission are classified into two categories: governmental and fiduciary. In turn, each category is divided into separate fund types. The fund and a description of each existing fund type follow:

Governmental Funds Governmental funds are used to account for the Commission's general government activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, the acquisition of capital assets, and the servicing of long-term debt. Governmental funds include:

General fund – the primary operating fund of the Commission. It accounts for all financial resources of the Commission, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

<u>Fiduciary Funds</u> Fiduciary funds account for assets held by the government in a trustee capacity or as an agent on behalf of outside parties, including other governments, or on behalf of other funds within the Commission.

Agency Funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. This fund is used to account for assets that the government holds for others in an agency capacity. The agency fund is as follows:

Sales tax collection agency fund – accounts for monies collected on behalf of other taxing authorities within the parish.

#### C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS) The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities displays information about the reporting government as a whole. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities was prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from non-exchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33 "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Non-exchange Transactions." Fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide financial statements.

<u>Program revenues</u> Program revenues included in the Statement of Activities derive directly from the program itself or from parties outside the Commission's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole; program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the Commission's general revenues.

Allocation of indirect expenses The Commission reports all direct expenses by function in the Statement of Activities. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a function. Depreciation expense is considered an indirect expense and is reported separately on the Statement of Activities.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted as needed.

#### Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

Governmental Funds The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Governmental fund types use the flow of current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they are "measurable and available"). "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The government considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured interest on long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases and decreases in net current assets. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

#### Revenues

Fees for the collection of sales and use taxes are recorded when the commission is entitled to the funds which are when the taxes are collected.

Interest income is recorded monthly as interest is earned.

Other receipts become measurable and available when cash is received by the Commission and are recognized as revenue at that time.

#### Expenditures

Salaries are recorded as earned.

Other Financing Sources (Uses) Transfers between funds that are not expected to be repaid (or any other types, such as capital lease transactions, sale of fixed assets, debt extinguishments, long-term debt proceeds, et cetera) are accounted for as other financing sources (uses). These other financing sources (uses) are recognized at the time the underlying events occur.

<u>Fiduciary Funds</u> The agency fund is custodial in nature and does not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. Agency funds are accounted for using the account basis of accounting.

#### D. BUDGETS

<u>General Budget Policies</u> The Commission follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the combined financial statements:

State statute requires that a budget be adopted for the general fund.

No later than fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Administrator submits to the Commission the proposed annual budget for the general fund to be approved. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.

Appropriations (unexpended budget balances) lapse at year end.

Formal budget integration (within the accounting records) is employed as a management control device. Budget amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include the original adopted budget and the final budget.

<u>Encumbrances</u> Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed. However, outstanding purchase orders are taken into consideration before expenditures are incurred in order to assure that applicable appropriations are not exceeded.

Budget Basis of Accounting The general fund budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted or as amended by the Commission. Legally, the Commission must adopt a balanced budget; that is, total budgeted revenues and other financing sources including fund balance must equal or exceed total budgeted expenditures and other financing uses. State statutes require the Commission to amend its budgets when revenues plus projected revenues within a fund are expected to be less than budgeted revenues by five percent or more and/or expenditures

within a fund are expected to exceed budgeted expenditures by five percent or more. The Commission approves budgets at the function level and management can transfer amounts between line items within a function.

E. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and interest-bearing demand deposits, and time deposit accounts. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the Commission may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

Investments are limited by LSA-R.S. 33:2955. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents.

Investments in <u>nonparticipating</u> interest-earning contracts, such as nonnegotiable certificates of deposit with redemption terms that do not consider market rates, are reported using a cost-based measure as per GASB Statement No. 31.

The Commission participates in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. (LAMP) which is an external investment pool that is not SEC-registered. Because the LAMP is an arrangement sponsored by a type of governmental entity, it is exempt by statute from regulation by the SEC.

LAMP is administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local government entities having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LA-R.S. 33.2955.

GASB Statement No. 40 Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosure, requires disclosure of credit risk, custodial credit risk, concentration of credit risk, interest rate risk and foreign currency risk for all public entity investments.

LAMP is a 2a7-like investment pool. The following facts are relevant for 2a7-like investment pools:

- Credit risk: Lamp is rated AAAm by Standard & Poor's
- <u>Custodial credit risk:</u> LAMP participants' investments in the pool are evidenced by shares of the pool.
   Investments in pools should be disclosed, but not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The public entity's investment is with the pool, not the securities that make up the pool; therefore, no disclosure is required.
- Concentration of credit risk: Pooled investments are excluded from the 5 percent disclosure requirement.
- <u>Interest rate risk:</u> 2a7-like investment pools are excluded from this disclosure requirement, per paragraph 15 of the GASB 40 statement.
- Foreign currency risk: Not applicable to 2a7-like pools.

The dollar weighted average portfolio maturity of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 90 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days. LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value based on quoted market rates. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the value of the pool shares.

LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors.

An annual audit of LAMP is conducted by an independent certified public accountant. The Legislative Auditor of the state of Louisiana has full access to the records of the LAMP.

LAMP issues financial reports. These financial reports can be obtained by writing: LAMP, Inc., 228 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 1123, New Orleans, LA 70130.

- F. CAPITAL ASSETS Capital assets are recorded at cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Donated fixed assets are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Estimated useful life is management's estimate of how long the asset is expected to meet service demands. Capital assets consist of equipment and furniture and fixtures which are depreciated over 2 to 10 years. Straight line depreciation is used.
- G. COMPENSATED ABSENCES All 12-month employees earn from 10 to 25 days of vacation leave each year. All employees are required to take one week of vacation consecutively each year.

Carrying Annual Vacation Leave Forward:

- a. Earned annual leave not taken by an employee may be accumulated up to 30 days and carried forward into the next calendar year. Employees may not take more than 30 days at one given time except with approval by the Commission.
- b. Upon separation from service, payment for the accrued annual vacation leave up to the days of separation shall be paid. The rate of pay shall be computed on the basis of the rate the employee is receiving at the time of separation.
- c. Upon death, annual vacation leave accrued to employees' credit shall be computed and the value thereof shall be paid to his or hers heirs, except that such payment for accrued leave shall not exceed thirty (30) days. The rate of pay shall be computed on the basis of the rate the employee was receiving at the time of his or her death.

All 12-month employees earn 12 days of sick leave each year. Sick leave can be accumulated without limitations.

Upon retirement or death, unused accumulated sick leave, not to exceed twenty-five (25) days, is paid to the employee or to the employee's estate at the employee's current rate of pay. Under the Louisiana Teachers' Retirement System and the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, all unpaid sick leave is used in the retirement benefit computation as earned service.

The Commission's recognition and measurement criteria for compensated absences follow:

GASB Statement No. 16 provides that vacation leave and other compensated absences with similar characteristics should be accrued as liability as the benefits are earned by the employees if both of the following conditions are met:

- A. The employees' right to receive compensation is attributable to services already rendered.
- B. It is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means, such as cash payments at termination or retirement.

GASB Statement No. 16 provides that a liability for sick leave should be accrued using one of the following termination approaches:

- A. An accrual for earned sick leave should be made only to the extent it is probable that the benefits will result in termination payments, rather than be taken as absences due to illness or other contingencies, such as medical appointments and funerals.
- B. Alternatively, a governmental entity should estimate its accrued sick leave liability based on the sick leave accumulated at the balance sheet date by those employees who currently are eligible to receive termination payments as well as other employees who are expected to become eligible in the future to receive such payments.

Only the current portion of the liability for compensated absences is reported in the fund. The current portion is the amount left unpaid at the end of the reporting period that normally would be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

H. USE OF ESTIMATES The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statement and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS At December 31, 2008, the Commission had the following investments:

Investment type	<u>Maturities</u>	Fair Value	Concentration of Credit Risk
Louisiana Asset			
Management Pool (LAMP)	Less than 1 year	<u>\$ 257,934</u>	100%

Interest rate risk: The Commission's policy does not address interest risk.

Credit risk: The Commission's investment in LAMP was rated AAAm by Standard & Poor's. The Commission's policy does not address credit rate risk.

Custodial Credit Risk-Deposits: In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Commission's deposits may not be returned to it. As of December 31, 2008, the Commission's bank balance was \$1,143,965. Of the bank balance, \$250,000 was covered by federal depository insurance or by collateral held by the Sales Tax Commission's agent in the Sales Tax Commission's name (GASB Category1). Of the remaining balance, \$213,155 was collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent but not in the Sales Tax Commission's name (GASB Category3) under provisions of GASB Statement No. 3, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Sales Tax Commission that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. The remaining balance of \$680,810 was uncollaterlized by either FDIC Insurance or securities pledged. The Sales Tax Commission's policy does not specifically address custodial credit risk.

NOTE 3 - CAPITAL ASSETS The changes in capital assets follow:

	Balance			Balance
	Beginning	Additions	Deletions	Ending
Equipment	\$ 81,779	\$ 4,904	\$ 4,891	\$ 81,792
Furniture and fixtures	13,658	1,600	<u> </u>	15,258
Total	95,437	6,504	4,891	97,050
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Total	<u>85,509</u>	<b>8,254</b>	4,891	<u>88,872</u>
Capital assets, net	\$ 9,928	<b>\$</b> (1,750)	<u>    \$                                </u>	<u>\$ 8,178</u>

NOTE 4 - RETIREMENT SYSTEMS Substantially all Commission employees participate in the Teachers' Retirement System or the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, which are a cost-sharing, multiple-employer public employee retirement systems (PERS). Benefit provisions are ultimately approved and amended by the Louisiana Legislature. Pertinent information relative to each plan is as follows:

#### **Teachers' Retirement System**

Plan description Participation in the Teachers' Retirement System is divided into two plans - the Teachers' Regular Plan and the Teachers' Plan A which is a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan. All Commission employees participate in the Teachers' Regular Plan. Generally, all full-time employees are eligible to participate in the system.

With respect to the Teachers' Retirement System Regular Plan, normal retirement is at age 60 with ten years of service, or at any age with 20 years of service. The formula for annual maximum retirement benefits is generally two percent (with less than 25 years of service) or 2.5 percent (with 25 or more years of service) times the years of creditable service times the average salary of the 36 highest successive months (plus \$300 applicable to persons becoming members prior to July 1, 1986).

TRS issues an annual financial report. The report can be obtained by telephoning or writing to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Post Office Box 94123, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9123, (225) 925-6446.

Funding Policy Each system is administered and controlled at the state level by a separate board of trustees, with contribution rates approved and amended by the Louisiana Legislature. Benefits of the systems are funded by employee and employer contributions. Benefits granted by the retirement systems are guaranteed by the state of Louisiana under provisions of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. The Commission's employer contribution for the

TRS, as provided by state law, is funded by the state of Louisiana through annual appropriations and by remittances from the Commission.

Contribution rates (as a percentage of covered salaries) for active plan members as established by the Louisiana Legislature for the year ended December 31, 2008, are as follows:

	<b>Employee</b>	<b>Employer</b>
Louisiana Teachers' Retirement System, Regular	8.00%	15.5%

Total covered payroll of the Commission for TRS - Regular Plan for the year ended December 31, 2008, amounted to \$111,220. Employer contributions for the past three years are as follows:

Fiscal Years Ended	
December 31, 2008	\$17,851
December 31, 2007	17,272
December 31, 2006	16,568

The Commission made 100% of the annual actuarially required contributions.

#### Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana

Plan Description The System is composed of two distinct plans, Plan A and Plan B, with separate assets and benefit provisions. One employee of the Commission is eligible to participate in Plan A. The plan is a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan.

With respect to Plan A, employees who retire at or after age 60 with at least ten years of service, at or after age 55 with at least 25 years of service, or at any age with at least 30 years of service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 percent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least the amount of creditable service stated above, and do not withdraw their employee contributions, may retire at the ages specified above, and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established or amended by state statute.

The System issues an annual financial report. The report can be obtained by telephoning or writing to the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70809, (225) 925-4810.

Funding Policy Under Plan A, members are required by state statute to contribute 9.25 percent of their annual covered salary and the Commission is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The Commission has only one employee under the Municipal Employees Retirement System and she has entered the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). Under the DROP the employee does not contribute to the plan but the employer continues its contribution. Contributions to the System also include one-fourth of one percent (except Orleans and East Baton Rouge parishes) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish. These tax dollars are divided between Plan A and Plan B based proportionately on the salaries of the active members of each plan. Contribution rates (as a percentage of covered salaries) for active plan members as established by the Louisiana Legislature for the year ended December 31, 2008, are as follows:

	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, Plan A	<u>9.25%</u>	<u> 13.5%</u>

Total covered payroll of the Commission for MERS - Plan A for the year ended December 31, 2008, amounted to \$39,624. Employer contribution for the past three years follows:

Fiscal Years Ended	
December 31, 2008	\$5,349
December 31, 2007	5,665
December 31, 2006	5,903

The Commission made 100% of the annual actuarially required contributions.

NOTE 5 - ACCOUNTS, SALARIES AND OTHER PAYABLES The payables at December 31, 2008, are as follows:

Accounts payable vendors <u>General</u>
\$939

NOTE 6 - COMPENSATED ABSENCES At December 31, 2008, employees of the Commission have accumulated and vested \$20,854 of employee leave benefits, which was computed in accordance with GASB Codification Section C60.

NOTE 7 - AGENCY FUND DEPOSITS DUE OTHERS A summary of changes in agency fund deposits due others follows:

	Balance			Balance
	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<b>Deductions</b>	<u>Ending</u>
Sales tax collection	\$3,036,408	\$31.460.849	\$30,957,540	\$3,539,717

**NOTE 8 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS** The following is a summary of the long-term obligation transactions for the year ended December 31, 2008:

	Compensated
	Absences
Balance, beginning of year	\$18,235
Additions	26,117
Deductions	23,498
Balance, end of year	20,854
Due within one year	\$20,854

NOTE 9-RISK MANAGEMENT The Commission is fully insured for workers' compensation after considering the deductible of \$100,000 per accident. The Commission is also at risk for property damage, liability, and theft which are covered by insurance policies.

#### **NOTE 10 - LITIGATION AND CLAIMS**

<u>Litigation</u> At December 31, 2008, the Commission is involved in litigation concerning protested taxes. Deferred revenue of \$30,491 is reported for the amount under protest.

**NOTE 11 - OPERATING LEASE** The Commission leases an office building for \$1,907 per month. The lease expires in March, 2008. Rental expense for the year was \$23,005.

NOTE 12 – ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE Accounts receivable of \$3,539,717 is reported in the fiduciary fund. This is sales tax collections on December 2008 sales that is actually collected in January 2009. No allowance for doubtful accounts was established as the full amount will be collected.

Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

# Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission

#### AGENCY FUND

SALES TAX COLLECTION FUND The sales tax collection agency accounts for monies collected on behalf of the other taxing authorities in Webster Parish. Upon receipts of sales tax returns and monies, the Commission issues checks to other taxing authorities periodically throughout each month.

#### SALES TAX COLLECTION FUND Schedule of Changes in Deposits Due Others For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Exhibit 1

DEPOSIT BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 3,036,408
ADDITIONS Sales tax collections	31,460,849
DEDUCTIONS	
Transfer to General Fund - Sales Tax Collection Fee	415,889
Payments to:	
Parish School Board	14,796,578
Parish Police Jury	3,294,200
Parish Sheriff's Office	3,293,023
City of Minden	5,455,113
City of Springhill	2,453,862
Town of Cotton Valley	91,797
Town of Cullen	106,375
Town of Sibley	298,660
Town of Sarepta	53,301
Village of Dixie Inn	312,033
Visitor's & Convention Bureau	184,641
Fees for Audit of Sales Tax Vendors	22,426
Refunds	132,627
Other	<u>47.015</u>
Total deductions	30,957,540
DEPOSIT BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$ 3,539.717

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> > Ernest L. Allen, CPA (Retired) 1963 - 2000

# Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

Board Members Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission Minden, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission, as of December 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 5, 2009. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

#### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs and item 08-F1.

The Commission's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying corrective action plan for current year findings and questioned costs. We did not audit the Commission's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board and management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. Although the intended use of these reports may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 this report is distributed by the Office of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

allen, Theen + Williamson, Ll

ALLEN, GREEN & WILLIAMSON, LLP

Monroe, Louisiana June 5, 2009

# Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs December 31, 2008

Reference # and title:

08-F1

Bank Deposits Unsecured

<u>Criteria or specific requirement</u>: Louisiana Revised Stature 39:1218 states "any bank selected as fiscal agency shall give security for the safekeeping and payment of deposits."

<u>Condition found</u>: The Sales & Use Tax Commission had \$1,143,965 deposited with one bank which was secured by \$250,000 in FDIC insurance and \$213,155 in pledged securities. The remaining balance of \$680,810 was not collateralized.

#### Possible asserted effect (cause and effect):

<u>Cause</u>: There were checks dated 12/30/08 for payment to vendors for sales tax remittance and those checks did not clear the bank until after year-end.

Effect: \$680,810 in deposits is exposed to risk.

<u>Recommendations to prevent future occurrences</u>: The Sales & Use Tax Commission should monitor pledged securities reports sent by banking institutions to insure the proper amount of FDIC and pledged securities exist to fully collateralize deposits.

# Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Findings and Questioned Costs December 31, 2008

Reference # and title:

08-F1

**Bank Deposits Unsecured** 

318-377-8948

318-377-4089

<u>Condition</u>: Louisiana Revised Stature 39:1218 states "any bank selected as fiscal agency shall give security for the safekeeping and payment of deposits."

The Sales & Use Tax Commission had \$1,143,965 deposited with one bank which was secured by \$250,000 in FDIC insurance and \$213,155 in pledged securities. The remaining balance of \$680,810 was not collateralized.

<u>Corrective action planned</u>: I will contact the bank to make sure the securities are pledged to cover deposits over \$250,000.

Phone:

Fax:

Contact person responsible for corrective action:

Cyndy Herrington, Administrator

Webster Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission

P. O. Box 357

Minden, LA 71058-0357

Anticipated completion date: Immediately.